

HEADQUARTERS
U.S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY
(PACIFIC)
ABC 234
C/O POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO

INTERROGATION NO. 211
(Obtain from G-2)

PLACE: Tokyo

DATE: 29 Oct 45.

Division of Origin: Capital Equipment & Construction

Subject: Activities of Production Machinery Control Association during War Years.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Viscount M. OKOCHI - President of Production Machinery Control Ass'n from Jan 1941 to Jan 1943, and a Director of Riken Institute of Physical and Chemical Research.

Where interviewed: Room 361, Meiji Bldg.

Interrogator: Lt. A.B. Smith

Interpreter: Lt. Wortham

Allied Officers Present: None.

SUMMARY

1. Production Machinery Control Ass'n controlled all "Production Machinery", which constituted about 30% of all Machinery Produced.
2. Production planning, raw material allocation, and actual production were completely unrelated.
3. The Army and Navy took much of materials originally allotted to civilian production. There was no real system of priorities for allocation of raw materials.
4. Finished machines frequently went to a different purchaser than one who had originally placed the order, due to pressure by military on behalf of customers favored by them.

DISTRIBUTION: All Divisions.

I N T E R R O G A T I O N

The Production Machinery Control Association controlled all production of the class of machinery known as "Production Machinery". This classification amounts to about 30% of the broader classification of Electrical Machinery, Precision Machinery, Rolling Stock, and automotive Equipment. Viscount OKOCHI was very emphatic that production planning, raw material allocation, and actual production had absolutely no relation to one another. Plans were long range wishful thinking on the part of planning offices in the government. There was a system of order examination to determine whether or not orders were really necessary, but this was only a form as very few orders were ever turned down. Tickets for the purchase of raw materials were issued far in excess of the actual amounts of raw materials available for purchase. Each quarter the tickets were cancelled and new ones were issued. There were many orders outstanding over a long period of time due to the fact that the Army and Navy took the materials originally allotted to civilian production. There was no real system of priorities for allocation of raw materials to certain urgent orders, but pressures were brought to bear for the allocation of finished machines to customers favored by the military. As a result the finished machine frequently went to a different purchaser than the one who had originally placed the order and obtained the necessary raw material ticket for its production.